



# Harry's PAC Problem

## *Harry Reid's Favorite Super PAC Can't Seem To Tell The Truth*

**Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's "Stamp Is On" Senate Majority PAC – A Major Democrat Super PAC Run By His Former Chief Of Staff.** "Reid's stamp is on some of the most successful Democratic outside groups. Susan McCue, his former chief of staff, runs the Senate Majority PAC, and Reid has solicited money on its behalf. The super-PAC raised \$26 million through the end of May for the November 2014 elections with the help of billionaires such as former money manager Tom Steyer, financier George Soros and Michael Bloomberg, the founder and majority owner of Bloomberg News parent Bloomberg LP." (Annie Linskey and Julie Bykowitz, "Democrats Gripping About False Ads Respond With Deception," [Bloomberg](#), 6/18/14)

- **So Far, Senate Majority PAC Has Spent \$25.5 Million On Ads This Year.** "Senate Majority PAC, a super PAC run by former top Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee officials, has spent \$25.5 million on television advertising so far this year, giving Democrats cover from attack ads launched by outside conservative groups." (Reid Wilson, "Democratic Super PAC Will Advertise In West Virginia," [The Washington Post](#), 7/24/14)

## *When It Comes To The Senate Majority Super PAC, Both Reid And Obama Are Hypocrites*

**As Reid Assails The Influence Of Contributions From The Koch Brothers, Senate Majority PAC Has Embraced Billionaire Donors.** "Even as Majority Leader Harry Reid and his fellow Senate Democrats assail the Koch brothers and their 'secret' political spending, Democrats have embraced super PACs and billionaire donors. They've also gotten a considerable assist from tax-exempt progressive groups that, like the Koch-allied Americans for Prosperity, do not publicly report their funding sources." (Eliza Newlin Carney, "Arkansas: Democrats Fight Fire With Fire," [CQ Weekly](#), 7/11/14)

- **Reid And His Fellow Democrats "Are Directing Big Checks To Senate Majority PAC."** "Meanwhile, Reid and Senate Democrats are directing big checks to Senate Majority PAC — the primary left-leaning outside group aimed at retaining their majority. With close ties to Reid, the super PAC provides air cover for vulnerable Democratic senators and challengers in the TV wars with conservative outside groups." (Burgess Everett and Tarini Parti, "Dems Give Big To Senate Majority PAC," [Politico](#), 6/2/14)

**Reid And His Aides Have Even Used "Unsubtle" Tactics To Steer Democrat Donors Away From Other Super PACs And Give To Senate Majority PAC Instead.** "While Renee Schaeffer, who helped found Blue Pelican PAC, said donors told her that Harry Reid had told them to route their money through Senate Majority PAC, the truth is there's nothing dramatic about how this elbowing-out is being handled. Chao and others working for Blue Pelican were not threatened, or told to stop, or even contacted directly by anyone. Instead, donors simply decided to take their money elsewhere, sometimes after an unsubtle

nudge from Democratic operatives connected to Senate Majority PAC and Harry Reid.” (Alex Roarty, “Why Harry Reid Is Sidelining Independent Super PACs,” [National Journal](#), 6/21/14)

- **“Even Ostensibly Independent, State-Specific Efforts, Like The Mark Begich-Allied Put Alaska First, Receive The Overwhelming Majority Of Their Funding Directly From Senate Majority PAC.”** (Alex Roarty, “Why Harry Reid Is Sidelining Independent Super PACs,” [National Journal](#), 6/21/14)

**Earlier In The Week, Obama “Attended An Event For The Senate Majority PAC.”** “Later Obama attended an event for the Senate majority PAC, a super committee that can raise unlimited amounts of money. The event was hosted by former Costco Wholesale Corp. CEO Jim Sinegal and his wife, Jan, and philanthropists Tom and Sonya Campion. PAC officials did not respond to requests for information about the event and it was closed to the press.” (“Obama Fundraising Amid Many Challenges,” [The Associated Press](#), 7/23/14)

- **The Event Has Been “Kept Largely Under Wraps.”** “Obama was in Seattle briefly for two fundraisers, though the second one -- hosted by the Senate Majority PAC -- is being kept largely under wraps. The White House declined to provide any information about the event, referring questions to the PAC, which would only confirm a Seattle Times reproduction of the invitation, which puts the event at former Costco CEO Jim Sinegal's Bellevue home.” (Edward-Isaac Dove, “In Seattle, Barack Obama Talks Of Unease About World,” [Politico](#), 7/22/14)
- **Details Of The Event Have Been Kept “Secret.”** “But Obama has attended three super PAC events in the past week: one in New York last Thursday and the two on the West Coast. How many people Obama met with was a secret. How much they paid to get in was a secret. Finding out who the people were? Forget it. Even a general account of what the president said to them? Not from this White House.” (Edward-Isaac Dove and Josh Gerstein, “Barack Obama Locks Out The Press – Again,” [Politico](#), 7/23/14)

**Obama’s Senate Majority PAC Secrecy Comes Just A Week After His Administration Claimed That Reporters Were Allowed Into Fundraisers.** WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY JOSH EARNEST: “Reporters, for years, clamored to get access to fundraisers that the presidents hosted, or attended, that were hosted in private homes. Reporters now have access to those when this president goes to a private home. He was at a private home just on Wednesday night. So, there are a number of steps that we’ve taken to give people greater insight in to what is happening at the White House.” (CNN’s, “[Reliable Sources](#),” 7/13/14)

- **Paul S. Ryan Of The Campaign Legal Center On Obama’s Appearance: “Simply Being The Featured Guest ... Should Not Be Permitted.”** “‘The reality is that there’s no need for someone like President Obama, who is the featured guest at a super PAC event, to make an explicit ask at all,’ said Paul S. Ryan of the Campaign Legal Center. ‘Simply being the featured guest at a super PAC event, in the Campaign Legal Center’s view, should not be permitted.’” (Edward-Isaac Dove and Josh Gerstein, “Barack Obama Locks Out The Press – Again,” [Politico](#), 7/23/14)
- **Fred Wertheimer Of Democracy 21 On Obama’s Super PAC Hypocrisy: “The Bottom Line For Us Is That The President Talked A Big Game When He Was Running For Office In 2008 About Fixing The System. And He Hasn’t Done Anything About It.”** “Schultz said Obama stands by his opposition to the *Citizens United* decision and support of the DISCLOSE Act and even a constitutional amendment to limit the flow of money into politics. ... That argument, Wertheimer said, is exactly the problem. ‘The bottom line for us is that the president talked a big game when he was running for office in 2008 about fixing this system,’ Wertheimer said. ‘And he hasn’t done anything about it — and continues to stay silent at a time when the system is a disaster for the American people.’” (Edward-Isaac Dove and Josh Gerstein, “Barack Obama Locks Out The Press – Again,” [Politico](#), 7/23/14)

## IN KEY BATTLEGROUND STATES, SENATE MAJORITY PAC RUNS AFOUL OF THE TRUTH

**Of The Six Senate Majority PAC Ads PolitiFact Has Reviewed, Five Were Found To Be False.** “The Senate Majority PAC has run 32 commercials so far in the election. PolitiFact reviewed six of them and found only one that was almost correct.” (Annie Linskey and Julie Bykowicz, “Democrats Gripping About False Ads Respond With Deception,” [Bloomberg](#), 6/18/14)

- **Kantar Media’s CMAG Data Found That 90 Percent Of Senate Majority PAC’s Campaign Ads Are Negative.** “Less than 10 percent of the 20,592 commercials that the Senate Majority PAC has funded this election cycle carry ‘positive’ messages, according to CMAG’s data.” (Annie Linskey and Julie Bykowicz, “Democrats Gripping About False Ads Respond With Deception,” [Bloomberg](#), 6/18/14)

**Sheila Krumholz, Executive Director Of The Center For Responsive Politics: On The Facts, Democrats Have “Ceded The High Ground.”** “‘The Democrats ceded the high ground,’ said Sheila Krumholz, the executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics, a Washington-based nonprofit that tracks campaign spending. ‘There is really no reluctance to embrace outside groups and all the opportunities that outside groups present, including this messaging that is not really defensible.’” (Annie Linskey and Julie Bykowicz, “Democrats Gripping About False Ads Respond With Deception,” [Bloomberg](#), 6/18/14)

### *In Arkansas, Senate Majority PAC Ran Two Ads That Were “False” And Received “Four Pinocchios”*

**PolitiFact Gave Senate Majority PAC’s Ad In Arkansas A “False” Rating.** “The Senate Majority PAC ad claimed, ‘Before Congress, Cotton got paid handsomely working for insurance companies and corporate interests.’ Cotton’s never worked for an insurance company, nor has he served as a consultant for one. We rate the statement False.” (Julie Kliegman, “Democratic PAC Says Tom Cotton ‘Got Paid Handsomely Working For Insurance Companies,’” [PolitiFact](#), 4/9/14)

**The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker Awarded Four Pinocchios To A Senate Majority PAC Ad Attacking Rep. Tom Cotton (R-AR), Saying “None Of The Allegations Made About Cotton Or His Policies Are Factually Correct.”** “None of the allegations made about Cotton or his policies are factually correct. In straining to somehow tie Cotton to insurance companies, Senate Majority PAC has managed to turn a job that Democrats might celebrate (developing a better functioning government program!) into a negative. The Medicare claims are so stale—and so repeatedly discredited—we can assume that polling indicates that the language is effective in moving voters, despite its falsity.” (Glenn Kessler, “A Democratic Attack Ad Tries To Connect The Dots, And Earns 4 Pinocchios,” [The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker](#), 4/1/14)

### *In Louisiana, Ads Run By Senate Majority PAC Have Been Rated “False” And “Misleading”*

**FactCheck.org: The Senate Majority PAC’s Claim That Cassidy Sponsored A Bill That Would Set Up “Government-Run Health Care” In Louisiana Is “Pure Invention.”** “It claims Cassidy once sponsored a bill to set up ‘government-run health care’ in the state. That’s pure invention; Cassidy’s bill did nothing of the sort.” (Brooks Jackson, “‘Cassidycare?’ Come On!” [FactCheck.org](#), 6/11/14)

- **“There’s Simply No Support For The Ad’s Claim.”** “But there’s simply no support for the ad’s claim that ‘Cassidycare would have created government-run health care in our state, with government bureaucrats making medical decisions.’ There’s simply nothing like that in the bill.” (Brooks Jackson, “‘Cassidycare?’ Come On!” [FactCheck.org](#), 6/11/14)

- **The Ad Claimed Cassidy Sought “Automatic ObamaCare Registration” When He Didn’t.** “And it says he argued for ‘automatic ObamaCare registration,’ when he didn’t. Cassidy actually called for repealing the law — and enrolling the uninsured in a scaled-back GOP alternative.” (Brooks Jackson, “‘CassidyCare?’ Come On!” [FactCheck.org](#), 6/11/14)
- **“[T]hat Isn’t True Either.”** “The Senate Majority PAC ad further claims that ‘Cassidy even said the government should automatically register us in ObamaCare if we don’t sign up.’ On screen appear the words “automatic ObamaCare registration,” as though Cassidy favored dragooning everybody into the exchanges. But that isn’t true either.” (Brooks Jackson, “‘CassidyCare?’ Come On!” [FactCheck.org](#), 6/11/14)
- **FactCheck.org: “But Being Behind In The Polls Is No Excuse For Making False Claims About An Opponent’s Record. That’s What Voters Should Really Find Insulting.”** (Brooks Jackson, “‘CassidyCare?’ Come On!” [FactCheck.org](#), 6/11/14)

**The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker Awarded Four Pinocchios To Senate Majority PAC’s Ad Regarding Their False Flood Insurance Ad In Louisiana, Calling It “Highly Misleading.”** “Television stations in Louisiana should be ashamed of falling for such an obvious gambit. Individual lines may be true, but the net effect is highly misleading. Surely, the standards for political advertising in Louisiana need to be higher if residents are going to have a civil political debate. (Glenn Kessler, “Senate Majority PAC’s Nonsensical Attack Ad In Louisiana,” [The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker](#), 4/8/14)

**PolitiFact Gave Senate Majority PAC’s Ad In Louisiana A “Mostly False” Rating.** “The Senate Majority PAC ad said the Koch brothers ‘funded the fight to let flood insurance premiums soar ... Now they’re spending millions to buy a Senate seat for Bill Cassidy so he can fight for them.’ Two major Koch-funded groups opposed the legislative rewrite of the flood-insurance law, and AFP has been airing a lot of ads attacking Cassidy’s opponent. But the ad’s message is significantly undermined by its suggestion that Cassidy is a puppet of the Kochs, particularly on flood insurance. The reality is that Cassidy sided with constituents and against the AFP position on flood insurance as recently as last month. ... We rate it Mostly False.” (Louis Jacobson, “Democratic Group Assails Koch Brothers’ Role In Louisiana Senate Race,” [PolitiFact](#), 4/8/14)

**PolitiFact Rated Senate Majority PAC’s Ad Claiming That “Koch Brothers Support Tax Breaks For Outsourcing Jobs” As “False.”** “Senate Majority PAC claimed the Koch brothers sought to ‘protect tax cuts for companies that ship our jobs overseas.’ The ad is misleading in two ways. For starters, there are no carved-out tax cuts for companies that outsource work. There is a standard deduction companies can utilize when they move, but it can be used at home and abroad. Secondly, the organization pinned the Koch brothers’ opposition to a statement from Americans for Tax Reform, a conservative group that has received only limited funding from the Koch network and never took an official position on the legislation. Americans for Prosperity, a group closer to the Koch brothers, also took no position. A note to ad makers: Supporting negative claims with flimsy evidence won’t win you points on the Truth-O-Meter. We rate the statement False.” (Steve Contorno, “Senate Dem Group Claims Koch Brothers Support Tax For Outsourcing Jobs,” [PolitiFact](#), 4/11/14)

**The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker Gave Senate Majority PAC’s Ad Regarding Koch Ad In Louisiana Four Pinocchios, Noting That “This Claim Crumbles To Dust.”** “Upon examination, this claim crumbles into dust. The ad not only mischaracterizes an ordinary tax deduction as a special ‘tax cut’ but then it falsely asserts that ‘protecting’ this tax break is part of the Koch agenda. It turns out this claim is based on a tenuous link to an organization that never even took a position on the legislation in question. We often have been critical of AFP ads, and we realize Democrats want to fight back against an onslaught of attacks. But if you want to join a gun fight, don’t fire blanks.” (Glenn Kessler, “Democrats Claim The Koch



Brothers Want To 'Protect Tax Cuts For Companies That Ship Our Jobs Overseas,'" [The Washington Post's The Fact Checker](#), 3/14/14)

## ***Senate Majority PAC Ads In New Hampshire Were "Mostly False" In Their Attempts To "Confuse" Voters***

**PolitiFact Rated The Senate Majority PAC's Ad In New Hampshire "Mostly False."** "Brown might have 'delivered' for Wall Street by opposing a specific \$19 billion tax proposal that would have been part of Dodd-Frank, but his support for the law -- which proved pivotal for its passage, and which drew Brown significant flak from the financial-services industry -- still helped bring about billions worth of new taxes and fees on the financial sector, not to mention additional regulation. The claim has an element of truth, but ignores important details that would give a different impression. So we rate it Mostly False." (Jim Haddadin, "Pro-Democratic PAC Says Scott Brown 'Delivered For Wall Street, Saving Big Banks \$19 Billion In Taxes,'" [PolitiFact](#), 2/11/14)

**FactCheck.org: "Senate Majority PAC Not Telling Whole Story"** (Eugene Kiely, "Senate Majority PAC Not Telling Whole Story," [FactCheck.org](#), 1/17/14)

- **According To FactCheck.org, The Ad Provided "Criticisms With No Context" In An Attempt To "Confuse" Voters.** "Instead, it provides criticism with no context, which may confuse New Hampshire voters more than inform them." (Eugene Kiely, "Senate Majority PAC Not Telling Whole Story," [FactCheck.org](#), 1/17/14)

## ***In North Carolina, Senate Majority PAC's Ad Was "Red Lighted" Due To Unsupported Claims***

**WRAL Fact Check Gave A Senate Majority PAC Ad The "Red Light," Claiming The Ad Was "Misinterpreting An Analysis ... And Making A Statement That Is Unsupported By The Facts."** "But in its zeal to win the argument and the election, Senate Majority PAC is misinterpreting an analysis of the 2013 tax plan and making a statement that is unsupported by the facts. The director of the center whose report is the basis of the 80 percent claim says it is an inaccurate use of their analysis. At the end of the day, the 80 percent claim is simply not right. We give this ad, and any other that repeats this claim, a red light." (Mark Binker, "Fact Check: Did GOP raise taxes on 80 percent in NC?" [WRAL](#), 5/16/14)

**The Washington Post's The Fact Checker Gave Three Pinocchio's To Senate Majority PAC's False Ad Attacking GOP North Carolina Senate Candidate Thom Tillis: "Senate Majority PAC Should Have Checked The Facts Before Rushing On The Air With This Ad."** "On its face, it is pretty absurd to think that a tax reform bill that cut rates and eliminated tax loopholes ended up raising taxes on 80 percent of the people in the state. Broadly speaking, the wealthy do appear to gain more from the 2013 tax overhaul, but they also pay the lion's share of income taxes. And 39 percent of the people appear to face a tax increase, including some of the wealthiest people in the state—not 80 percent, all at the bottom. Our old adage applies: If a factoid sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Senate Majority PAC should have checked the facts before rushing on the air with this ad." (Glenn Kessler, "Senate Majority PAC's Faulty Tax Math In The N.C. Senate Race," [The Washington Post's The Fact Checker](#), 5/14/14)